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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Radio Service, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, Thursday, February 10, 1938.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

KADDERLY:

Once more we bring to the Farm and Home Hour audience our garden commentator Mr. W. R. Beattie of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Anything new in gardening today Mr. Beattie?

BEATTIE:

Yes Mr. Kadderly there's always something new in gardening. Evidently you've not seen any of the 1938 seedsmen's catalogs.

KADDERLY:

Well, to be frank with you, I haven't, but, since you've raised that question what is new or striking in the catalogs this year?

BEATTIE:

Oh, a lot of things. In addition to all of the good old standards there are a lot of new things, especially the new hybrid sweet corns, stringless beans, yellows-resistant varieties of cabbage, wilt-resistant watermelons and wilt-resistant tomatoes.

KADDERLY:

By wilt-resistant watermelons and tomatoes you mean varieties that have been developed for growing on land where the wilt disease is present I presume.

BEATTIE:

Yes the wilt of watermelons and of tomatoes is a very common trouble especially in the warmer parts of the country.

KADDERLY: Perhaps it would be well to give us the symptoms of wilt?

BEATTIE:

The plants wilt and die as though something had cut the stems just below the ground. You see the wilt is a fusarium disease that lives over winter in the soil and enters the plants through their roots and clogs or chokes the water passages in the stem between the roots and the tops of the plants so that the tops can not get any water. The State workers and the Department plant breeders have developed varieties that are immune to wilt. This has been done by crossing vigorous types with our leading varieties and then back-crossing and selecting until they get strains and varieties that have desirable qualities and yet are resistant to disease.

KADDERLY:

W. R., suppose you were a vegetable grower in one of the States and you were having trouble with your tomatoes, watermelons, or what have you, what would you do about it?

(over)

BEATTIE:

I'd get the County Agricultural Agent on the phone and see if he knew what the trouble was. If he didn't, or did not have a bulletin that described the trouble and prescribed a remedy I would furnish him with samples to be sent to the workers in the State College or Experiment Station for examination. The county agricultural agent knows where to go for information and if it is not available from your own college or experiment station he can pass the problem right on up to the workers in the United States Department of Agriculture. This is a big country you know and control measures that may be all right for one section may not be effective in another section. That is why these matters of controlling plant pests should be taken up with the local extension service people first.

KADDERLY:

I can understand that all right W. R.---and I recall that a couple of weeks ago you called attention to the fact that many of the State colleges and experiment stations have published bulletins for the home gardeners and that copies of these bulletins can often be secured from the local county agricultural agents. You also mentioned two bulletins published by the Department - one was the Farm Garden and the other on Diseases and Insects of garden vegetables.

BEATTIE:

That is right, Farmers Bulletin 1673 and 1371.

KADDERLY:

Those are for the folks who have farm gardens, but what about our listeners who have village or town homes and want to plant a garden in their back yards. Anything to offer them?

BEATTIE:

Oh yes, we have a bulletin especially for those folks. It is Farmers' Bulletin 1044 and the title is The City Home Garden. That title is a little misleading because the bulletin contains information adapted to gardens that are smaller than a regular farm garden. Then we have another very useful garden bulletin which deals with the growing of asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries and other small fruits for home use. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1242. Let me repeat those numbers. Farmers' Bulletin 1673 and 1371 for the farm garden and 1044 and 1242 for the small garden. Many of the town gardeners will want a copy of No. 1371 because it contains information on diseases and insects, but it is really best to get this information on pest control from your local State workers.

KADDERLY:

Farmers Bulletins available:

1. The Farm Garden.
2. Diseases and Insects of Garden Vegetables.
3. The City Home Garden.
4. No. 1242 - dealing with certain so-called permanent garden crops.

Write names and addresses plainly.